

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Executive Registry  
63-5063

21 June 1963

Personal and Confidential

Mr. Byron Engle  
Agency for International Development  
Department of State  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Byron:

I have received some rather disturbing information on the status of the Police Academy in Panama, which may or may not be accurate, but on which I thought you would want to check to make sure that there is no problem and that everything is going well.

First, I am told that General O'Meara has agreed to make the other half of the building at Ft. Davis, which the Academy is now occupying, available for just the balance of this year, after which he has indicated he would like the entire building back. There is apparently some discussion of them planning to move the Academy to a building at Coca Sola with considerable expense involved in rehabilitating one of the buildings in that area. On the basis of my knowledge it would appear that it would be in the Government's best interests to keep the Academy at Ft. Davis and to finish modernizing the present installation. If this is indeed the most practical solution, then perhaps it might be necessary to take the matter to a fairly senior level in the Government in order to get complete agreement on this.

Second, I understand that the present accommodations are air conditioned only on the first floor where the administrative offices are located, and that the second floor where the students are billeted and the third floor where the classes are held are not air conditioned. It would seem to me that this is a relatively simple problem to solve and there would be no excuse for not having the present facilities completely air conditioned. I am sure that a word in the right place could accomplish this.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE                     )

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Third, I understand that both in the billeting and messing areas for the Latins there is no distinction because of rank, and that colonels are treated the same as noncoms. I think that this is a mistake, does not reflect a true understanding of the Latin mentality, and should be corrected at once.

Fourth and finally, I am told that the administrative support side of the Academy could be improved by the acquisition of an aggressive supply or support officer who knew his way around and could beg, borrow or scrounge what was required.

I pass on the above for your information and whatever action you wish to take, and I have asked the area division to insure that you are kept fully informed of everything they hear about the Academy. Please be sure to let me know if there is anything we can do to assist in view of the high importance that the Government places on this project.

Sincerely yours,

*s/ Kirk*

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director

LBK:drm

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